"Red Tape Cutters"

The Benefit Specialist Program addresses issues related to elder rights, government benefits, consumer issues, and health insurance by providing information, assistance, and advocacy to Grant County residents over age 60. Staff understands, and is familiar with, what needs to be done to conquer extensive and often complicated paperwork.



Benefit Specialists are trained by, and work under the direction of attorneys that practice elder law to:

- assess client situations to determine options available;
- explain benefit options, processes, and resources;
- assist clients through the maze of benefit options and paperwork;
- advocate on behalf of clients or on issues related to elder benefits and elder rights;
- represent clients to appeal negative benefit decisions;
- organize personal information and paperwork related to a variety of areas (including medical claims), and
- provide presentations and written resource materials on elder rights and benefit topics listed below.

Appointments are available at the Center on Aging office, meal sites, hospitals, and nursing homes. Home appointments for homebound persons are also available. Check our Helpful Links page for more information on the following topics:

TOPICS ADDRESSED BY BENEFIT SPECIALIST PROGRAM	
Community Options Program (COP)	Medical Bill Reductions
Consumer Fraud and Unfair Sales	Medicare & Medicare D
Disability Benefits	Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap)
Elder Abuse	Provider Refunds
Elder Rights	QMB (Qualified Medicare Beneficiary)
Food Share "Stamps"	SeniorCare Prescription Drug Program
Fuel Assistance	SLMB (Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiary)
Home Repair	Social Security
Homestead Tax Credit	Spousal Impovishment

Housing Issues	SSI (Supplemental Security Income)
Long Term Care Insurance	Surrogate Decision Options
Long Term Care Options	Veterans Benefits
MAPP (Medical Assistance Purchase Plan)	Veterans Medical Benefits
Medical Assistance (MA or Medicaid)	Weatherization

For Additional Information Call: 608-723-6113 or 1-800-514-0066 Grant County Center on Aging.